

**ADULTERY BETWEEN NEWLAND ARCHER AND ELLEN OLENSKA  
REFLECTED EDITH WHARTON'S *THE AGE OF INNOCENCE* (1921):  
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
in English Department

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APPROVAL

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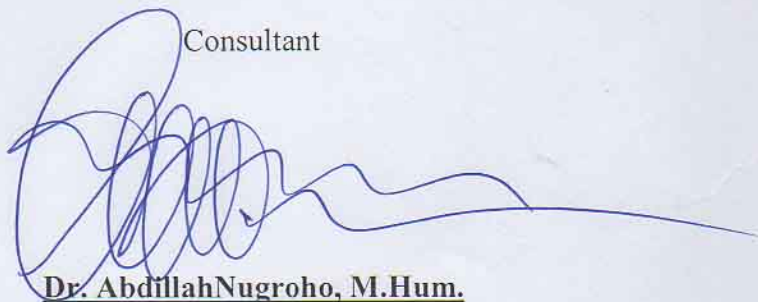
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**ACCEPTANCE**

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## TESTIMONY

Herewith, I testify that in this Publication, there is no such thing as plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degree, nor there are opinions or masterpiece which have been written or published by others, except those which are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in the literary review and bibliography. Therefore, if it is proved that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will hold full responsibility.

Surakarta, 25 Oktober 2018

The Researcher

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## **ADULTERY BETWEEN NEWLAND ARCHER AND ELLEN OLENSKA REFLECTED EDITH WHARTON'S *THE AGE OF INNOCENCE* (1921): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini fokus pada analisis perzinahan antara Newland Archer dan Ellen Olenska dalam novel *The Age of Innocence* (1921) oleh Edith Wharton's menggunakan pendekatan psikoanalisis. Penelitian ini termasuk penelitian kualitatif. Peneliti melakukan metode penelitian pustaka untuk mengumpulkan data dan informasi dengan menggunakan buku dan internet yang terkait dengan masalah. Teknik analisis data dari penelitian ini adalah memperjelas data yang diperoleh oleh Sigmund Freud. Hasil analisis ini menunjukkan perzinahan antara Newland Archer dan Ellen Olenska. Dalam hal ini perzinahan muncul karena ketertarikan Newland Archer pada persona Ellen Olenska. Karena Newland melihat Ellen untuk pertama kalinya dia sangat tertarik, Ellen berbeda dari wanita lain yang dikenal Newland Archer termasuk tunangannya, May Welland. Dalam melawan masalahnya, ego Newland adalah salah satu faktor yang mendominasi perzinahan. Ego Newland adalah peran yang paling berperan dalam perzinahannya dengan Ellen Olenska. Ini juga dampak perzinahan termasuk hukum pidana, perceraian dan seksual .

**Kata kunci: perzinahan, kriminal, perceraian, seksual .**

### **Abstract**

This study focuses on analyzing adultery between Newland Archer and Ellen Olenska in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* novel (1921) by a psychoanalytical approach. This study belongs to qualitative research. The researcher conducts library research method to collect data and information by using some books and internet which are related to the problem. Technique of data analysis of this research is clarifying the obtained data by selecting the necessary one and analyzing data based on a psychoanalytical by Sigmund Freud. The results of this analysis show adultery between Newland Archer and Ellen Olenska. In this case adultery appears because of Newland Archer interest with Ellen's attraction. Because Newland saw Ellen for the first time he was very interested, Ellen is different from other women who are familiar with Newland Archer including his fiancée, May Welland. In fighting against her problem, Newland's *ego* is one of the factors that dominate adultery. The Newland's *ego* is the most play role in his adultery with Ellen Olenska. There's also the impact of adultery including criminal law, divorce and voluntary sexual of them.

**Keyword: adultery, criminal, divorce, voluntary sexual**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Literary psychology is a science that explains about a work of art that develops an abstract soul that examines a behavior and its existence in life against the manifestation of his soul life. He thought of the author as an obdurate neurotic who, by his creative work, he kept himself from a crackup but also from any real cure. Freud says that the artist is originally a man who turns from reality because he cannot come to terms with the demand for the renunciation of instinctual satisfaction as it is firstly made, and then in fantasy life, he allows full play to his erotic and ambitious wishes ( Wellek 1956: 76).

Literary psychology is a science that explains about a work of art that develops an abstract soul that examines a behavior and its existence in life against the manifestation of his soul life. Psychoanalysis is a study of human system of personality, which is the branch of psychological study. In psychoanalysis, there are many theories that describe the model of human structure developed by Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). The basis of Freud's opinion and view departs from the belief that human mental experience is like an iceberg floating in an ocean that is only partially smallest visible, whereas the nine tithes of it that are not visible are the parts of the mental unconscious in the form of complex thoughts And unconscious desires that are not experienced directly but they continue to influence human behavior. For Freud, all forms of human behavior originate from the impulses of the subconscious mind. This dialectic between consciousness and unconsciousness is described by Freud in three psychological systems. There are *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego*. In the human person, there is called the *ID* (instinct), *EGO* (me/I), and *SUPEREGO* (norm). These three things will help humans to adapt to their environment. Instinctively, humans will try to survive in any way as mentioned above, including defending themselves about its existence in the environment. One of the problems people often encounter is family or household issues. Everyone who has been married would not want to marry disturbed by the presence of a third person. As people know, marriage is a sacred bond as one form of interpersonal interaction

involving two people who love each other to live and nurture a happy family. But in reality now there are many cases of divorce caused by the adultery.

There are many literary works relating to adultery. Nowadays the researcher chose literature in the form of a novel. The novel the author selected as a essay material was *The Age of Innocence's* novel by Edith Wharton, a Pulitzer award-winning satire woman in 1921. The novel whose title is the same as the main character's name is one of the famous Wharton writing's, the story tells about the figures named Newland Archer who had an affair with Ellen Olenska, his wife's cousin. Considering the background above, the main problem in this research is Adultery between Newland Archer and Ellen Olenska through *The Age of Innocence*. Based on the problem statement, the researcher formulates the researcher question are as follows : (1) How does the adultery happen reflected in *The Age of Innocence* novel. (2) What the factors encourage adultery reflected in *The Age of Innocence* novel. (3) What is the impact of adultery for them reflected in *The Age of Innocence* novel. Based on the illustration above, the researcher is interested to analyze this novel by using a psychoanalytical of literature entitled **ADULTERY BETWEEN NEWLAND ARCHER AND ELLEN OLENSKA REFLECTED EDITH WHARTON'S *THE AGE OF INNOCENCE* (1921): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research the researcher analyzes *The Age of Innocence* novel by using descriptive qualitative research which consists of method of collecting, describing, classifying, analyzing data and drawing the conclusion. The data sources are divided into two, namely primary data and secondary data source. The primary data source of the study is *The Age of Innocence* novel by Edith Wharton which is published in 1921. The data involves words, phrase, sentences, and some pictures. The sources of secondary data are taken other resources which are related to the study; websites, articles, biography of author, and some books dealing with the research. The technique of data collection the researcher used in this study is library research by collecting and selecting both of primary



and secondary data source compatible with the problem statement and objectives of the study.

The researcher uses the technique in collecting data as follows : a) Reading *The Age of Innocence* novel repeatedly, b) Browsing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study, c) Taking notes of important information that is used for both primary and secondary data, d) Identifying the problem and finding the data, e) Arranging the data into several parts according to its classification, f) Making conclusion and suggestion based on the analysis data. In order to analyze *The Age of Innocence* novel the researcher uses psychoanalytic of literature and applies it using descriptive analysis which concerns to make some interpretation of dealing with the novel. In analyzing the content of the novel in the form of text, then that should be done in analyzing the contents by reading the entire text of the novel in a systematic and comprehensive.

### **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

After analyzing the novel, the researcher discovers some findings as follows:

#### **3.1 Notion of Adultery**

Adultery is often defined as any act of a sexual nature with another person while you are in a marital relationship. There are a wide variety of punishments for adultery based on the culture, religion, and power status of women in different regions. In most advanced democracies today, adultery is not a crime but the act may be used against the adulterer if he or she is going through a divorce. In the United States, there are still laws on the books against adultery but it is rarely prosecuted. However, adultery in the military is a potential court-martial offense. Besides religion, other reason adultery is condemned so harshly is because family is often seen as a primary component of society. Many consider the family to be the most important institution in society.

Therefore, anything that violates the institution of marriage could be punished harshly, according to the view of many within society. Before



contraception was common, the practice of adultery often resulted in pregnancy. Therefore, a husband could raise a child not of his own genes or be forced to split time between two families. Before the advent of paternity testing, men could deny that a child was theirs, leaving the parenting to the mother's family.

### **3.2 Reasons for Adultery**

Adultery can be done even in a stable and loving relationship: someone deceives and commits adultery with someone else. Adultery involves promises, in combination, one of the most serious signs we make. The couple managed to make an appointment to use with each other, who could not relate to others. When this is violated, it is for various reasons. Adultery shows indifference to offenders. He doesn't care about other people or their feelings. This can also be seen by adulterous couples having feelings for others, which can be very painful.

Many psychologist and sociologists argue that adultery result from other underlying problems within the marriage that can range from psychological or physical abuse to lack of companionship or time together. There are also some who argue that monogamy is not part of our instinctual makeup as human beings. In her book *Adultery* (1999), Louise DeSalvo argues that adultery may make evolutionary sense as a way of guaranteeing the survival of the human species. Some argue that the purpose of marriage is to control sexual partnering, but that human are not wired to have these controls; therefore, adultery in many marriages may be inevitable.

### **3.3 Divorce**

Most marriages which an adulterous relationship occurs end in divorce. However, divorce does not have to be the only option. If a couple works with counselors and the person who committed the adulterous act seeks to regain the trust of the other spouse, then it may be possible for the marriage to be saved. Underlying issues within the marriage must first be resolved in the relationship for the marriages to be reconciled. Contrary to popular belief, most people who have an adulterous affair and get divorce do not go

on to marry their lover; in cases where this does happen, there is an extremely high divorce rate.

### **3.4 Effect of Adultery**

Adultery is one of the worst things that can happen to a marriage and violates everything you've built with your partner in a personal way. Many people are victims of infidelity. Emotionally, physically or both are involved with someone other than our partner. Adultery affects not only the people involved but everyone else close to them. David M. Buss and Todd K. Shackelford (1997) shows that "even though the impact is destructive, infidelity occurs conservatively estimated to occur in about half of all marriages. "(Buss D.M. & Shackelford T.K., 1997 p.216). Surely it can be surprising and frightening to hear it adultery can occur in almost half of all marriages.

Physical health is something else adultery affects. Married people trust their partners enough to have unprotected sex with them. Thought for unmarried couples is those who don't need to worry about them. Every day, unsuspecting couples travel to the office because they have not found a healthy, or there are rashes suddenly appearing on their faces. And every day, there are unsuspecting couples who receive news that they have a disease. Some even contain that their disease cannot be cured. Jennifer S. Hirsch et al. (2009) even stated "for most women in the world, their biggest risk of HIV infection comes from having sex with their husbands"(Hirsch, J.S. et al, 2009:7). Married men, who are the victims of adultery, are no doubt unknowingly catching these diseases as well. To find out you have a disease that you caught from the only person you have had sexual contact with, and to realize they have to catch it as nothing less than devastating. Fortunately, many people don't know about adultery because they are diagnosed with illness. In fact, people who are mentally and emotionally experienced by people as a result of their discovery of adultery are still the same.

### 3.5 Punishment

Discriminatory punishment for adultery. Speakers are worn by the state to clean up the law of adultery for girls and daughters. Of the exceptions submitted to OHCHR, especially for prosecution of adultery, all privacy has been a matter of prosecution of women or girls. Adultery laws are usually designed and used in ways that benefit women. Research shows that, even triggering penalties for white people, generally in law and the practice of discriminating against women. 18 The CEDAW Committee has included in the final part of the law per adultery country, women are systematically prosecuted, while men, or male relatives, who kill others, who cannot commit adultery, are not charged with murder. With a voyage to the same country, noted that the reputation of women in prisons has been subjected to prostitution, adultery, alcoholism, behavior that is legal or indecent, in private or public settings. 19 Under many criminal laws that prohibit adultery, there are more severe penalties for women for adultery.

The CESCRC Committee has found heavier sentences against women for adultery and "honor crimes". Much communication with the government by relevant mandate holders to respect crimes committed by families member, or act / not from the State in relation to stoning, whipping or death by paying women for suspected premarital sex, for adultery, for failing to prove rape, and for actions deemed incompatible with purity. In many cases the holders of letters issued by the court, etc., that the death penalty cannot be applied to adultery violations.

### 3.6 Psychoanalytic Analysis

In this section *id*, *ego*, and *superego* will be applied in analyzing Newland Archer's structure personality.

#### **a. Newland Archer's *Id***

*Id* is the most original aspect in personality and a person's innate since he was born. It's also biological need of human especially sex, and its

function is to satisfy the pleasure principle. *Id* according to Freud to the point that Freud said "Man is what his sex is; His qualities depend on his lust," Freud said. *Id* on the character of Newland Archer in the novel include, such as a biological need of human. In this case, Newland Archer when talking to Ellen Olenska on the edge of the fireplace and trying to hold so as not to go from his side. As the quote on the novel below:

Archer felt that at any cost he must keep her beside him, must make her give him the rest of her evening. Ignoring her question, he continued to lean against the chimney-piece, his eyes fixed on the hand in which she held her gloves and fan, as if watching to see if he had the power to make her drop them. "May guessed the truth," he said. "There is another woman—but not the one she thinks." Ellen Olenska made no answer, and did not move. After a moment he sat down beside her, and, taking her hand, softly unclasped it, so that the gloves and fan fell on the sofa between them.....(The Age of Innocence, chapter XVIII, page : 229 )

Sex is basic need of human, in this case Newland Archer who has been engaged to May Welland. When He meets Ellen Olenska who has been a married woman, He feels there is something different from Ellen's figure. Newland helps Ellen in her divorce process. Newland became interested and fell in love with Ellen. But Ellen realized that Newland was engaged to May Welland. As the quote on the novel below :

"Ellen! What madness! Why are you crying? Nothing's done that can't be undone. I'm still free, and you're going to be." He had her in his arms, her face like a wet flower at his lips, and all their vain terrors shrivelling up like ghosts at sunrise. The one thing that astonished him now was that he should have stood for five minutes arguing with her across the width of the room, when just touching

her made everything so simple. She gave him back all his kiss, but after a moment he felt her stiffening in his arms, and she put him aside and stood up. (The Age of Innocence, chapter XVIII, page : 232 )

**b. Newland Archer's Ego**

Ego is an expression of emotions, angry at someone and is a form of communication about regret, disappointed toward achievement. Ego as well as tools to satisfy the desires of the Id in a way that is realistic. These aspects of personality that lead a person to act or refrain from acting in terms of what has learned about the world rather than solely according to his biological impulses are referred to collectively as the ego (Munn, et al, 1969: 457). In this case the selfishness of Newland is very visible when he directly expresses his love for Ellen Olenska without thinking that he is engaged with May Welland but he wants to be with Ellen Olenska and he thinks that everything can be changed and aborted. As the quote on the novel below:

The silence that followed lay on them with the weight of things final and irrevocable. It seemed to Archer to be crushing him down like his own grave-stone; in all the wide future he saw nothing that would ever lift that load from his heart. He did not move from his place, or raise his head from his hands; his hidden eyeballs went on staring into utter darkness. "At least I loved you—" he brought out. On the other side of the hearth, from the sofa-corner where he supposed that she still crouched, he heard a faint stifled crying like a child's. He started up and came to her side. "Ellen! What madness! Why are you crying? Nothing's done that can't be undone. I'm still free, and you're going to be." He had her in his arms, her face like a wet flower at his lips, and all their vain terrors shrivelling up like ghosts at sunrise. (The Age of Innocence, chapter XVIII, page 231-132 )

When Newland Archer says that everything is nonsense because it must lie to themselves about the feelings of each other, but it is different from what Ellen thinks that everything that has been planned should not be canceled and change like marriage. As the quote on the novel below:

He stood up too, flushed and resolute. "Nonsense! It's too late for that sort of thing. We've no right to lie to other people or to ourselves.( The Age of Innocence, chapter XVIII, page 232 )"Ah, don't let us undo what you've done!" she cried. "I can't go back now to that other way of thinking. I can't love you unless I give you up."( The Age of Innocence, chapter XVIII, chapter 234 ).

### **c. Newland Archer's *Super Ego***

The *superego* acts as an internal sensor, causing us to make moral judgments in light of social pressures. In contrast to the *id*, the *superego* operates according to the morality principle and serves primarily to protect society and us from the *id* (Bressler1995: 5). This case is showing Newland's *superego*. Newland's *superego* can be proved when he set aside his ego and go back to the early thinking when he had to marry his fiancée, May Welland. Newland held a custom wedding in New York, running the rules of society. As the quote on the novel below:

*During this unavoidable lapse of time the bridegroom, in proof of his eagerness, was expected to expose himself alone to the gaze of the assembled company; and Archer had gone through this formality as resignedly as through all the others which made of a nineteenth century New York wedding a rite that seemed to belong to the dawn of history. Everything was equally easy—or equally painful, as one chose to put it—in the path he was committed to tread, and he had obeyed the flurried injunctions of his best man as piously as other bridegrooms had obeyed his own, in the days when he had guided*

*them through the same labyrinth.( The Age of Innocence, chapter XIX, page 243-245).*

#### 4. CONCLUTION

Based on the analysis from the previous study, the researcher finally is able to write down the conclusion. Firstly, based on analysis about adultery show that adultery happen because of indifference to partners with each other, lack of communication, and time to be together. The Age of Innocence novel characterization has major character there're Newland Archer which is become the object of the study. Adultery itself can be proven through the major character of the novel. Adultery The plot that been used in The Age of Innocence novel consists of exposition, complications, climax, and resolutions. Point of view in this novel is using the point of view is 3<sup>rd</sup> person narrator.

Secondly, in this part researcher use Sigmund Freud's theory, psychoanalytic approach to analysis the issue, adultery. In this case, there is factors encourage adultery between Newland and Ellen Olenska because Ellen's attraction. Newland saw Ellen for the first time he was very interested, Ellen is different from other women who are familiar with Newland Archer including his fiancée, May Welland. In fighting against her problem, Newland's *ego* is one of that keeps her standing. The Newland's *ego* is the most plays role in his adultery between Ellen Olenska.

Thirdly, based on the story of *The Age of Innocence*, which tells about an affair between Newland Archer and Ellen Olenska, there are some impacts caused by this affair such as physical health, criminal law, divorce and voluntary sexual among them. *The Age of Innocence* novel is a meaningful literary work and many problems in it that can be learned. It can develop our knowledge about the situation of human who understanding his psychology. It also tells about the meaning of human personality that is reflected in Newland Archer. The researcher hopes to not understand it as the psychoanalytic literary but also knows the idea contained in this novel in order to utilize the message for addressing the problem and been a guide in seek the psychology.



The researcher suggest the other researcher who are interested on May Welland's struggle to defend his household with Newland Archer. These issues can analysis to other researcher using an individual psychological approach by Adler's theory. The researcher states that in every human has their own ways to love. Newland Archer is a young lawyer, he is charming. He is able to love two women in the same time. Newlands struggle to reach Ellen's love when he has engagement.

This novel has some moral values can be used as the basic for daily life and also can be manifested in good or bad ways. Thus, we will be able to distinguish from the values obtained from reading novels, and can also be implemented in real life to interact with each other.

And then the researcher hopes this paper is useful for the readers and other researcher in rich the knowledge about literary studies generally and the novels especially.

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